

**Emergency Message to U.S. Citizens**  
**U.S. Embassy, Manila**  
**December 16, 2011**

*THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO U.S. CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD. THANK YOU.*

**Tropical Storm Washi (Sendong)**

This message is being issued to alert U.S. citizens residing or traveling in the Philippines that the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) issued alerts for a tropical storm, with the international name of “Washi” and the Philippine name of “Sendong” at 5:00 a.m. today, December 16, 2011. This tropical storm is currently located at 300 km east southeast of Hinatuan, Province of Surigao del Sur (7.7°N, 129.1°E), with maximum sustained winds of 65 kph near the center and gustiness up to 80 kph.

PAGASA reports the tropical storm entered the Philippine area of responsibility today, December 16, 2011 at 2:00 a.m. The tropical storm is forecast to move west northwest at 24 kph, and if it stays on the predicted track, will make landfall in the Province of Surigao del Sur, and make its way in a west northwest direction toward eastern Visayas and the Province of Palawan before moving out of the Philippines. Heavy rain, thunderstorms, and gusty winds are possible, which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. For further details, see the PAGASA Severe Weather Bulletin <http://www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph>.

Please monitor the tropical storm’s track by listening to the radio, watching television, or monitoring <http://metocph.nmci.navy.mil>, [www.typhoon2000.ph](http://www.typhoon2000.ph), or [www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph](http://www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph). In the event the tropical storm affects where you live, locate shelter, monitor media reports, and follow all official instructions. Carry your travel documents at all times (i.e. U.S. passport, birth certificate, picture ID’s, etc.) or secure them in a safe, waterproof location. You should also contact friends and family in the United States with updates about your whereabouts. Additional information on emergency situations in the Philippines is available at [www.redcross.org.ph](http://www.redcross.org.ph) or [www.ndcc.gov.ph](http://www.ndcc.gov.ph).

Additional information on storm preparedness may be found on the “Hurricane and Typhoon Season” page of the Bureau of Consular Affairs website. Updated information on travel in the Philippines may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States and Canada, or from overseas, 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

It is possible that weather conditions may require that the Embassy temporarily close. In the event of a weather-related closure, the Embassy will issue a message. Please continue to monitor the Embassy’s website <http://manila.usembassy.gov/> for updated information.

For any emergencies involving U.S. citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services Unit of the U.S. Embassy’s Consular Section, located at 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila;

telephone (02) 301-2000 extensions 2246 or 2567; after hours emergency telephone (02) 301-2000; fax (02) 301-2017; e-mail [acsinfomanila@state.gov](mailto:acsinfomanila@state.gov); web page <http://manila.usembassy.gov>. If the Embassy public phone number, 301-2000, is not operational, U.S. citizens who require emergency assistance may contact the American Citizens Services Unit through <http://www.facebook.com/manila.usembassy>, through [acsinfomanila@state.gov](mailto:acsinfomanila@state.gov), or by calling the United States at the following numbers: 202-501-4444 (if calling from outside the United States or Canada) or 1-888-407-4747 (if calling from within the United States or Canada).

For information on visas or to schedule an appointment, please call (02) 982-5555 or (02) 902-8930 within the Philippines and other countries aside from mainland United States, or (214) 571-1600 for calls from mainland United States. You can also get information and book an appointment online at <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/ph>.

*For information regarding the Department of Veterans Affairs please call (02) 318-8387 or 1-800-1888-8782 for the VA Clinic and (02)550-3888 or 1-800-1888-5252 for Benefits information. In the event of a temporary closure of the U.S. Embassy, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will attempt to call all those with an existing appointment to reschedule.*